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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 4, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of heaven and Earth, darkness descends upon us as the days grow shorter, and the cold chastens us to withdraw inside.

Be for us the light we long for. The very promise of change creates expectation.

By the first hints of Your dawn, banish all fear and hesitation. May those who live on the margins of America's rich blessings have peace and prosperity too.

Strengthen us with Your mighty arm, that this Congress may be unified in lifting Your people to renewed hope.

For You are always faithful and can be trusted, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation for the hard work on behalf of the citizens of South Carolina.

The purpose of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation is to promote the health and well-being of economically disadvantaged South Carolinians through expanded access to quality and affordable health care. Through the awarding of grants, the foundation provides necessary resources to free clinics, health education programs, and school nursing programs. Realizing that it is often children and young adults most adversely affected by inadequate health care, the foundation focuses on providing grant money to services that will assist children and adolescents who are either uninsured or underinsured.

This year they have embarked on a state-wide tour to recognize the \$1.6 million in grants that they will be awarding. This is part of over \$7 million in grants they have awarded since 2003.

I want to thank the foundation's executive director, Harvey Galloway, and

the CEO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Ed Sellers, for their strong leadership.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

FUND OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 65. That's 65 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That's \$18.5 million a day not able to be used.

This bill has been done for months and the President has already agreed to sign it. But instead of moving the bill forward, the Democratic leadership in Congress chose to adjourn early for the Thanksgiving holiday.

I'm calling on the Speaker to pass this bill, and I call on all Americans to contact their Representatives and tell the Democratic leadership to send a clean veterans appropriation bill to the President now.

Our veterans are heroes. We must provide all possible benefits and health care for our veterans now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN HENRY HYDE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a terrific Member, former Congressman Henry Hyde. He's often recognized for his wisdom and his eloquence of speaking. But, frankly, there were some other sides of him that were very precious. He was a man of quick wit and a keen sense of humor, to which I was always a willing audience.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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